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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING GROUP TO THE PLENARY

Addendum

91/__. Refugees, displaced persons and returnees

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the number and sericusness of emergency situations, in particular those involving refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and their impact on the development prospects of the already fragile infrastructures of the countries concerned,

Stressing that the economic and social problems posed by emergencies involving refugees, returnees and displaced persons are multisectoral and multifaceted in nature and that durable solutions can be achieved mainly through a development-based approach,

Reiterating its conviction that a system-wide approach to emergency preparedness and response is indispensable,

Recognizing the established mandates and operational responsibilities of the various agencies and programmes of the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/136 of 15 December 1989, which assigned specific roles and responsibilities in emergency situations to the United Nations resident coordinators,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 36/225, of 17 December 1981,

Recognizing the primacy of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in providing international protection to refugees and in seeking permanent solutions to their problems,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on refugees, returnees and displaced persons (DP/1991/20), and the views expressed during the debate thereon during the thirty-eigth session of the Governing Council;

2. Recognizes Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990 requesting the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review which, inter alia, would assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in assisting all categories of refugees, displaced persons and returnees and the whole spectrum of their needs in supporting the efforts of the affected countries to address them;

3. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme described in section III of the report (DP/1991/20) concerning the programme of work for 1992;

4. Takes note of the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to implement the tasks of the two organizations in a complementary manner and welcomes the working arrangements reflected in their joint letter of 1 November 1990 to all resident representatives and representatives of the High Commissioner;

5. Encourages the Administrator to continue his close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and other relevant United Nations organizations dealing with natural and other disasters in carrying out activities related to providing development assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

6. Encourages the Administrator to continue to respond within the division of labour between the organizations of the United Nations system in assisting concerned Governments to assess the impact and respond to the technical cooperation needs of refugees, displaced persons and returnees in their development plans and programmes and to continue to seek co-financing from other resources;

7. Invites the Administrator to provide to interested Governments policy advice and assistance on ways of mobilizing resources, on linking emergency and reconstruction activities and on their integration in the overall development process, drawing as appropriate on previous successful experiences;

8. Requests the Administrator to assess, as appropriate, the impact on the development process of countries hosting large refugee populations and displaced persons and integrating returnees and accordingly, based on this assessment, to mobilize necessary resources to assist the development process in relation to the scale of the disruption;

9. Further encourages the Administrator, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and other relevant organizations, to assist concerned Governments with natural disaster preparedness and reduction, consistent with the international framework of action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

10. Commends the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the progress achieved in their collaborative efforts, including the Disaster Management Training Programme and the preparation of a disaster manual;

11. Recognizes the need for a speedy, well-coordinated, highly professional response from the United Nations system when a humanitarian emergency occurs;

12. Authorizes the Administrator to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Development Programme to provide necessary headquarters backstopping, within its mandate as a development organization, to its field offices in responding to the developmental aspects of humanitarian emergencies and decides to review this question at its thirty-ninth session (1992) in the light of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council as called for in its resolution 1990/78 and by the General Assembly;

13. Requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992) on all items contained in the present decision.